

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



November 1, 2007

Dear Colleague:

We are initiating a national search for the Director of the Office of Cyberinfrastructure, to be appointed June 2008 and we seek your assistance in the identification of candidates. Dr. Daniel Atkins has served in this position with great distinction since 2006.

Established in July 2005, the Office of Cyberinfrastructure (OCI) coordinates and provides support for state-of-the-art cyberinfrastructure resources, tools and services essential to the conduct of 21st century science and engineering research and education. The incumbent ensures that the programmatic activities of the office are undertaken with vision, vigor and integrity. The OCI Director reports to the Director of the National Science Foundation, and is a member of the agency's executive leadership team. Enclosed is an information sheet that summarizes the Office's activities and the responsibilities of the position, together with the criteria that will be used in the search. Employment may be on a temporary or permanent basis in the Federal Service or by temporary assignment under provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Priscilla P. Nelson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, will chair the Screening Committee. We and the Committee seek your help in identifying candidates who recognize the potential that a world-class cyberinfrastructure provides to advance the frontier of science and engineering and to broaden participation in the research and education enterprise. The ideal candidate should demonstrate creative leadership and extraordinary vision for and commitment to promoting science and engineering discovery and learning through cyberinfrastructure innovation. Furthermore, the candidate should have a deep sense of scholarship and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF policy and management team. We are especially interested in identifying women, members of minority groups, and persons with disabilities for consideration. Recommendations of individuals from any sector -- academe, industry, or government -- are welcome.

Please send your recommendations, including any supporting information which you might be able to provide, to OCI Director Screening Committee via e-mail (ocisrch@lists.nsf.gov) or at the following address: National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, Suite 1205, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. We would appreciate receiving them by February 15, 2008.

Your assistance in this very important task is appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Arden L. Bement, Jr." in a cursive style.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathie L. Olsen" in a cursive style.

Kathie L. Olsen
Deputy Director

Enclosures

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**Screening Committee Review Criteria for
Director, Office of Cyberinfrastructure**

We are seeking demonstrated evidence of:

Strategic Vision

- Working knowledge of the major current intellectual challenges and opportunities in cyberinfrastructure.
- Ability to formulate strategic plans for research and education in cyberinfrastructure and multidisciplinary research activities.

Leadership, Direction, and Representation

- Ability to serve effectively as a member of NSF's senior management team, helping to develop consensus both within the directorate and across the agency on agency policy and plans.
- Ability to plan, prioritize, and coordinate interagency and international research programs related to the Foundation's cyberinfrastructure portfolio.
- Ability to manage an organization consisting of scientific and staff support personnel.
- Ability to communicate NSF policy and strategic plans to the external community, including the public, the Congress, and scientific colleagues in other disciplines.

Credibility within Research and Education Community

- Deep sense of scholarship and significant scientific contributions to one or more of the fields related to next-generation cyberinfrastructure.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions that conduct research and education in cyberinfrastructure.
- Familiarity with the existing U.S. and international infrastructure that supports cyberinfrastructure research.
- High level of professional recognition in the science community as evidenced by positions held, publications, and/or professional awards.

Commitment

- Commitment to the goals of the NSF Strategic Plan, including the integration of research and education, and the ability to conceptualize the role of cyberinfrastructure in achieving those goals.
- Commitment to the employment and development of a highly qualified staff that reflects the diversity of our nation and to the equitable representation of underrepresented groups and institutions on advisory committees, in workshops, and proposal review panels.

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The National Science Foundation Office of Cyberinfrastructure

The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is an independent agency of the United States Government. Its vision is to enable the nation's future through discovery, learning and innovation. In pursuit of this vision, NSF invests in (1) DISCOVERY by supporting research that will advance the frontiers of knowledge and establish the nation as a leader in transformational science; (2) LEARNING to cultivate a world-class, broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce and scientifically literate citizenry; (3) RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE by building the nation's research capacity with critical investments in advanced instruments, tools and facilities; and (4) STEWARDSHIP by cultivating a capable and responsive organization that promotes excellence in science and engineering research and education. All of these goals work together in concert. The Foundation seeks to realize these goals using four core values: vision, dedication to excellence, broad inclusiveness, and accountability to the research community and the taxpayer.

The **Office of Cyberinfrastructure** (OCI) is a staff office within the Office of the Director. OCI supports applied research, development, and provisioning of shared and connecting advanced cyberinfrastructure to support and bridge science and engineering research and education. Cyberinfrastructure (CI) includes technology and human expertise together providing high-performance computation; data storage, access and stewardship; global-scale networking; visualization and interaction; and distributed dynamic collaborations. Cyberinfrastructure is both an object of and means for research and learning.

The mission and activities of the Office of Cyberinfrastructure are guided by the Foundation's *Cyberinfrastructure Vision for 21st Century Discovery* (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf0728/index.jsp>) and the cyberinfrastructure elements of the new *NSF Strategic Plan* (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf0648/nsf0648.jsp>). OCI partners with all of NSF 1) to support the preparation and training of current and future generations of researchers and educators to use cyberinfrastructure; 2) to advance the transformative application of CI to research and learning; and 3) to track and transfer the relevant products of basic research into future generations of cyberinfrastructure. The office promotes ongoing processes to identify and share common solutions, re-use, and best practices across the wide range of discipline-specific CI investments and initiatives. It also partners and leverages its investments with other federal agencies, private foundations, industry, and e-science/ cyberinfrastructure activities in other nations. The office has direct responsibility for a budget of about \$200M per year with anticipated continuing increases in future years.

The **Director, Office of Cyberinfrastructure** (Office Director) serves as a key member of the NSF senior policy and management team. The Office Director provides leadership and direction to programs and initiatives within OCI. The Office Director is responsible for planning and implementing programs, priorities and policy within the framework of statutory authority and National Science Board authority. The Office Director must have outstanding leadership abilities, a deep sense of scholarship, clear vision regarding opportunities and issues in cyberinfrastructure research, and a commitment to attaining the goals through employment of the strategies of the National Science Foundation.